United Nations S/2005/268

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 April 2005

Original: English

Letter dated 22 April 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Please find attached the report on the work of the Security Council during the Argentine presidency, in January 2005 (see annex). This report was written under my supervision, after consultation with the other members of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) César **Mayoral**
Ambassador

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Annex to the letter dated 22 April 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Argentina (January 2005)

Introduction

In January 2005 the Security Council considered more than a dozen issues regarding international peacekeeping and security, including some of the most sensitive conflict situations currently on the international agenda. Among the subjects we find Haiti, the situation in the Middle East, Iraq, the Sudan, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, Afghanistan, Georgia, the humanitarian situation in Africa and counter-terrorism. In January 2005 the Security Council adopted three resolutions, three presidential statements and seven statements to the press.

Americas

Haiti

On 12 January, the Security Council held an open debate on the question concerning Haiti. At the end of the meeting the first presidential statement of the year was adopted (S/PRST/2005/1). The meeting started with a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti, Juan Gabriel Valdés, on the current situation and the activities of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). The presidential statement adopted after the debate summed up the points of interest expressed by the majority of the delegations, principally in reference to the need for the United Nations to remain in Haiti for all the necessary time and to the close connection among the issues of security, national reconciliation and development as key factors for stability in Haiti. The statement also addressed current issues of the Haitian situation and the needs in the areas of security, development, human rights and the political process. One of the most important results of the debate — reflected in the statement — is the decision of the Council to organize a mission to Haiti in conjunction with the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti of the Economic and Social Council before the next renewal of the mandate of MINUSTAH, in order to evaluate the needs in the field.

Asia

The situation in the Middle East

On 10 January, the Assistant Secretary-General for peacekeeping operations, Hédi Annabi, informed the Security Council about the incident that had occurred the day before in the immediate vicinity of the Blue Line in the Shab'a area. As a result of that incident, one French military observer died and another soldier of Swedish nationality was injured. The Assistant Secretary-General gave details regarding the circumstances of the incident, which originated in an attack by Hezbollah against a

patrol of the Israel Defense Forces. The Israeli military response to the attack resulted in the killing and wounding of the two aforementioned military observers.

In a statement to the press read by the President of the Security Council on 11 January, the members of the Council reiterated their call on the parties to live up to their commitments to fully respect the Blue Line and to exercise the utmost restraint. The members of the Council paid tribute to those who lost their lives or were injured and expressed their deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims. They also reaffirmed the imperative to respect, in all circumstances, the safety and security of United Nations personnel.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 13 January, the Council held an open meeting at which the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Kieran Prendergast, gave his regular briefing on the situation in the Middle East. Its main aspects concentrated on the Palestinian presidential elections held on 9 January. Subsequently, informal consultations were held, at which Council members welcomed the results of the Palestinian elections, and considered the current situation in the Middle East and the means to resume a genuine political process and advance towards a just and sustainable peace in the region.

At the end of the meeting the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2005/2) referring to the following issues: the Palestinian presidential elections, the future political process, in particular the Palestinian legislative elections, reinforcement of the Palestinian institutions, international assistance to the people and the Palestinian Authority and the necessity to implement the road map for a viable, democratic and sovereign Palestinian State, in peaceful and secure coexistence with Israel.

United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

On 26 January, the Council held informal consultations during which the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations presented the report of the Secretary-General regarding the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The members of the Council analysed the current situation in the area of operations of UNIFIL, expressing their concern about violations of the Blue Line. They also considered the draft resolution on the extension of the mandate of the Force.

On 24 January — before the above-mentioned consultations — the members of the Council held a meeting with troop-contributing countries for UNIFIL.

On 28 January the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1583 (2005), by which the mandate of UNIFIL was extended for six more months, until 31 July 2005.

Iraq

On 14 January, the Council heard a briefing by the representative of the Secretary-General on the International Advisory and Monitoring Board, Jean-Pierre Halbwachs, regarding its activities. He presented the report of the Board covering activities from May 2003 to June 2004 and giving details about the utilization of the funds from Iraqi oil sales and the controls established regarding the integrity of the

oil exports and oil products and the payments of the Iraq Development Fund. In some of these areas the Board identified failings that were duly reported to the Coalition Provisional Authority and the Iraqi authorities.

On 31 January, the President of the Security Council read a statement to the press about the Iraqi elections held the previous day. The members of the Council congratulated the Iraqi people for exercising their right to vote under adverse conditions and recognized the work of the Independent Electoral Commission, the poll workers and election observers, and at the same time welcomed the advice given by the United Nations Electoral Assistance Division and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), and by international experts. The members of the Council also referred to the subsequent steps in the transition process and the importance of reconciliation, national unity and an inclusive political process.

Afghanistan

On 10 January, the Council received a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, Jean Arnault, on the situation in the country and on the work of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). He highlighted the different aspects of the situation, making special reference to the parliamentary and local elections to be held in the spring of 2005, the security situation, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of Afghan militias, the plans on the fight against narcotics and the situation with regard to reconstruction and economic development.

After the meeting the President of the Security Council read a statement to the press in which the members of the Council renewed their support for the work of UNAMA and expressed their interest in the holding of parliamentary and local elections in the spring of 2005. The Council also called upon the international community to support the efforts currently under way on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of Afghan militias and on combating the production and trafficking of narcotics.

Africa

Sudan

The Council welcomed the signature on 9 January in Nairobi of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). The Council underlined the perseverance of the principal negotiators, First Vice-President Ali Osman Taha and the Chairman of SPLM, John Garang, and indicated its willingness to support the implementation of the Agreement through, among other actions, the deployment of a peace support operation.

In a statement to the press read by the President of the Security Council on 10 January, the members expressed their conviction that the signature of the agreement marked a watershed in the history of the country, and requested the Government of National Unity to work expeditiously to consolidate peace throughout the country. At the same time, the members expressed their belief that the Government must actively commit itself to ending the violence in Darfur and

stated that they would continue monitoring the situation in the region, especially the activity of the Mission of the African Union.

On 11 January, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Sudan, Jan Pronk, briefed the Council on the situation in the Sudan and stressed that the Agreement initiated a process for peace consolidation. Regarding the Darfur region, he referred to the persistence of violence, human rights violations and the difficulties of the humanitarian situation as well as the halt in the Abuja peace talks. The members of the Council called upon the parties to fulfil their commitments and commended the active participation of the African Union.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

During informal consultations held by the Council on 6 January, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, William Swing, presented the sixteenth report of the Secretary-General on the work of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), and briefed the Council on the latest developments in the transitional process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The members of the Council agreed in underlining their satisfaction with the strategic restructuring of MONUC in the field and considering that further endeavour was required in the following areas: the approval of the new Constitution as well as pending electoral legislation that must include the whole population; the necessity to set a specific date for the presidential elections, the disarmament and demobilization of the ex-combatants within a reasonable period of time, particularly of the militias of the ex-FAR/Interahamwe; and the implementation of a policy of zero tolerance for the perpetrators of sexual abuses within MONUC.

Côte d'Ivoire

On 25 January, during informal consultations, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations briefed the Council on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire. He noted that only limited progress had been achieved in implementing the plan, based on the Linas Marcoussis and Accra III Agreements, which the President of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki, had proposed to the Ivorian parties. The Assistant Secretary-General stated that the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire remained fragile and the security situation continued to be volatile, with criminality increasing and the economic situation deteriorating.

With regard to the difficult security context the Assistant Secretary-General underlined the need for the reinforcement of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) along the lines of the emergency requirements recommended in the third report of the Secretary-General on UNOCI, of 9 December 2004 (S/2004/962).

The members of the Council stressed that it was particularly important to find a rapid solution to the problem of revising article 35 of the Ivorian Constitution and the commencement of the plan of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. The Council members also raised concerns that the continuing delays in the peace process were putting into increasing doubt whether the presidential elections could be organized as scheduled in October 2005.

Central African Republic

On 6 January, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Central African Republic, Lamine Cissé, briefed the Council in informal consultations on the events that had occurred in the Central African Republic and the activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in that country (BONUCA) since October 2004. The members of the Council welcomed the information regarding the progress made in the transitional process and requested the international community to continue to support it, in particular concerning the funding of the forthcoming elections.

In a statement to the press read by the President of the Security Council at the end of the consultations, the members requested renewed support for the international partners of the Central African Republic and, in particular, for the election process, and recalled that the only way to ease the normal functioning of the republican institutions in accordance with the new constitution was to create an appropriate environment for the organization of free, transparent and democratic elections.

Europe

Georgia

On 25 January, during informal consultations, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Georgia, Heidi Tagliavini, presented the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG). She considered that for the early resumption of the peace process it was vital to re-establish the dialogue between the parties in the Georgia-Abkhazia peace process since this was one of the short-term objectives of UNOMIG. At the same time she considered that the solution to the conflict had to be an integral one, based on previous Security Council resolutions, which must include a settlement of the political status of Abkhazia within the State of Georgia. She also considered that the document entitled "Basic Principles for the Distribution of Competences between Tbilisi and Sukhumi" was a good starting point and said that the following meeting of the Group of Friends for Georgia, foreseen for the spring of 2005 at Geneva, would be very important as a means to move out of the current status quo. Finally, she remarked that the principal issues to be addressed by the parties would be economic cooperation, the return of refugees and internally displaced persons and political and security issues. The dialogue should be resumed through pertinent measures of trust between the parties. At the end of the meeting a statement to the press was adopted.

On 28 January, the Council adopted resolution 1582 (2005) by which the mandate of UNOMIG was extended for a period of six months, until July 2005, and the concepts expressed during the informal consultations of 25 January were reiterated.

Other matters

Counter-terrorism

The President of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, Ambassador Andrey Denisov, informed the Security Council about the achievements of the Committee at an open meeting on 18 January.

He stressed that the examination of the reports that Member States presented to the Committee by virtue of resolution 1373 (2001) was one of the key instruments for the development of the functions of the Committee, especially for the continuation of the permanent dialogue with Member States on progress achieved. However, he expressed concern about the increasing number of countries that presented their reports with delay. He mentioned that 75 countries were late in submitting their reports.

He also underlined the importance of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate becoming fully operational as soon as possible.

At the end of the meeting, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2005/3) endorsing the fourteenth 90-day work programme of the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

International Tribunals

On 18 January the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1581 (2005) in response to the request of the Secretary-General in his letter of 6 January, regarding the extension of the mandate of some of the ad litem judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

Humanitarian affairs

On 27 January, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Jan Egeland, briefed the Council on the humanitarian situation in Africa.

He said that the emergencies in Africa would dominate the humanitarian agenda and that, of the 15 humanitarian calls made in 2004, 13 were for African countries. He also referred to the "triple threat" of food insecurity, HIV — which in 2004 took 1 million victims in the southern zone of Africa — and the lack of protection of people often linked to Governments that were too weak. In addition, he stated that limited access for humanitarian workers did not permit help to arrive to all of those who needed it.

Appendix I

Resolutions and statements adopted in January 2005

Resolutions

Resolution number	*Subject*
1581 (2005)	International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991
1582 (2005)	The situation in Georgia
1583 (2005)	The situation in the Middle East

Statements by the President

Statement number and date	*Subject*
S/PRST/2005/1 of 12 January 2005	The question concerning Haiti
S/PRST/2005/2 of 13 January 2005	The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question
S/PRST/2005/3 of 18 January 2005	Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

Appendix II

Statements made to the press by the President of the Security Council in January 2005

Central African Republic (6 January)

The members of the Security Council heard a briefing by the Representative of the Secretary-General, Lamine Cissé, on the situation in the Central African Republic and the activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA). They reiterated their full support for the action of General Cissé in that country.

The members of the Council noted with satisfaction the progress made until now by Central Africans in the transitional process that will allow the restoration of constitutional legality and rule of law.

The members of the Council encouraged the international partners of the Central African Republic to continue to support this process, in particular concerning the funding of the forthcoming elections.

The members of the Council took note of the difficulties due to the recent decision of the transitional constitutional court that excludes some candidates for the presidential elections. They considered that the decision of the Head of State, General François Bozizé, to accept three candidatures that have been excluded by the transitional constitutional court was encouraging. They firmly invited General François Bozizé and all political actors to find rapidly an appropriate and consensual solution in order to save the electoral process and the transition, which have required a lot of efforts.

The members of the Council recalled that the only way to ease the normal functioning of the republican institutions in accordance with the new constitution is to create an appropriate environment for the organization of free, transparent and democratic elections. All necessary steps must be taken in this regard.

The members of the Council appealed to the international donor community to respond generously to the consolidated appeal process launched by the United Nations on behalf of the Central African Republic in order to address its preoccupying humanitarian needs.

The members of the Council requested the Secretary-General to inform them of any new developments in the situation in the Central African Republic, and to assess this situation through his Representative, no later than the end of March 2005.

Palestinian elections (10 January)

The Security Council welcomes the presidential elections of the Palestinian Authority held yesterday, 9 January 2005.

The members of the Council congratulate the Palestinian people on this election.

The Security Council will discuss this matter in depth next Thursday, 13 January 2005.

Sudan (10 January)

The members of the Security Council welcome the signature on 9 January in Nairobi, Kenya, of the comprehensive peace agreement for the North-South peace process in the Sudan. The perseverance of the principal negotiators, First Vice-President Ali Osman Taha, and the Chairman of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, John Garang, embodies the promise of a new future for the Sudan.

Recalling Council resolutions 1547 (2004) and 1574 (2004), the members of the Council will expeditiously consider appropriate United Nations support for implementation of the peace agreement, including deployment of a peace support operation, and look to the international community, once implementation begins, to provide assistance for its implementation, as well as for the reconstruction and rehabilitation process.

The members of the Council note with appreciation the unflagging support of the international community as critical to the success of the North-South peace process. In particular, the Council commends the outstanding contribution of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and expresses its gratitude for the efforts of members of the Troika.

The members of the Council express their hope and conviction that the signature of this agreement will mark a watershed in the history of the Sudan, look forward to its implementation, and call on the emerging Government of National Unity to work expeditiously to consolidate peace throughout the country.

The members of the Council believe that this emerging Government of National Unity must also commit itself fully and actively to ending the violence in Darfur, thereby extending the benefits of the comprehensive peace agreement throughout the national territory.

In this regard, the members of the Council express their continued determination to monitor the situation in Darfur and, recalling previous resolutions, underscore the obligations of all parties to maintain the 8 April 2004 N'djamena ceasefire and to work towards a peaceful settlement. Council members welcome the active engagement of the African Union and reiterate the need for continued support from the international community to the African Union.

Afghanistan (18 January)

The Security Council received a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, Jean Arnault, on the situation in Afghanistan and the work of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).

The Council supports the work of UNAMA and commends the work done by the Mission in accordance with relevant resolutions of the Council.

The Council looks forward to the holding of parliamentary and local elections in Afghanistan in the spring of 2005.

The Council calls upon the international community to support efforts currently under way on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of Afghan militias and on combating the production and trafficking of narcotics.

Attacks and loss of life in the Middle East (11 January)

The members of the Security Council received a briefing from the Secretariat yesterday following the lethal attack by Hezbollah against an Israeli patrol and the Israeli military response, which resulted in the killing and wounding of United Nations military observers on 9 January.

The members of the Council reiterated their call on the parties to fulfil the commitments they have made to respect in its entirety the Blue Line and to exercise the utmost restraint.

The members of the Council paid tribute to those who have lost their lives or been injured in the service of the United Nations, and expressed their deepest sympathy and condolences to the victims and their families. They reaffirmed the imperative to respect, in all circumstances, the safety and security of United Nations personnel.

Georgia (25 January)

The members of the Security Council today heard a briefing by the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Georgia, Heidi Tagliavini, who presented to the Council members the Secretary-General's report on the activities of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG).

They reiterated to the Special Representative their continued support. They stressed that UNOMIG must be in a position to fulfil its mandate unhindered, and emphasized that all parties must ensure appropriate security and freedom of movement for UNOMIG.

The members of the Council reaffirmed their commitment to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders. They discussed the next steps in support of the Georgian-Abkhaz peace process. They underlined the need for renewed efforts to achieve a lasting political solution to the conflict, based on the relevant Security Council resolutions, and expressed their hope for an early resumption of the dialogue between the two sides in order, inter alia, to prevent instability and to build mutual confidence.

They reiterated their support to the United Nations, with the assistance of the Russian Federation in its capacity as facilitator, as well as the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General, in the efforts to resolve the conflict. Members of the Council welcomed the intention of the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, to travel soon to the region. They encouraged both parties to the conflict to participate constructively in the next high-level meeting of the Group of Friends.

Elections in Iraq (31 January)

The members of the Security Council welcome the Iraqi elections completed yesterday, 30 January 2005, and congratulate the Iraqi people on this positive step in the political development of Iraq. They commend the bravery of the millions of Iraqis who, facing adverse conditions, exercised their right to vote. The members of the Council also appreciate the efforts of the Iraqi Independent Electoral Commission and the thousands of Iraqi poll workers and election observers.

The members of the Council also appreciate the advice and support to the Iraqis of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, particularly the Director of the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs, Carina Perelli, and the United Nations lead electoral adviser Carlos Valenzuela, as well as international electoral experts.

As the Secretary-General said, "The success of the election augurs well for the transition process. The next phase will be one in which the Transitional National Assembly drafts a permanent constitution for Iraq, which is expected to be put to a referendum in October 2005". In this context, the members of the Council welcome recent statements from Iraqi leaders stressing the importance of reconciliation and national unity.

The members of the Council will continue to follow developments in the coming days and affirm their ongoing support for Iraq's political transition in accordance with Security Council resolution 1546 (2004).